

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

AFFORDABLE HOUSING IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 1998

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, today the gentleman from Washington [Mr. METCALF] and I are introducing the Affordable Housing Improvement Act, a measure that would: Increase the cap on the low-income housing tax credit, which has not been adjusted for inflation since it was originally enacted in 1986; index the cap for inflation; implement several administrative reforms recommended by the U.S. General Accounting Office and the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Oversight; allow the use of the credit for developing community service areas for programs such as child care, Head Start, and job training, designed to serve individuals in the community who may not live in the credit-financed housing but who meet the income requirements of the housing credit program; and encourage the use of the credit to revitalize existing communities.

Last year, the Oversight Subcommittee held two hearings on the administration of the low-income housing tax credit program. We learned that:

The need for low income housing is greater than ever. Census data showed an unmet demand for affordable housing of more than 5 million units in 1996. The Census Bureau projects that this number will climb to 8 million units by the year 2000.

The program provides better housing than traditional public housing programs because private investors have a stake in making sure the structures are well-built and maintained—a condition of receiving the credit.

Investor demand for the credit has increased since its enactment in 1986. This greater demand has stimulated more competition, resulting in an increase in private equity raised per credit dollar. Nationwide, developer demand for housing credits now exceeds supply by more than 200 percent. This means States have a wider variety of proposals from which to choose.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good program. It enjoys strong support on both sides of the aisle. It combines good public policy with private sector innovation and efficiency. But it can be improved.

In our hearings, we learned that 43 percent of the households in properties placed in service between 1992 and 1994 were one-person households and 24 percent were two-person households. Only one-third of the units were occupied by three or more people. To encourage the States to allocate credits for developments for families with children, the bill will require allocating agencies to include "tenant populations of individuals with children" in criteria they use in allocating credits.

The bill would also encourage the use of the credit to revitalize existing communities. In our

hearings, we learned that most of the buildings—an estimated 73 percent—placed in service between 1992 and 1994 were newly constructed; the rest were existing and rehabilitated buildings. Many older neighborhoods have extensive stocks of housing that could be rehabilitated and converted to low-income rental use or improved for continued low-income rental use. However, these projects are often more expensive and more difficult to develop. The bill would create a preference for projects which contribute to "a concerted community revitalization plan," and it would require States to include "whether the project includes the use of existing housing as a part of a community revitalization plan" in the selection criteria.

The measure would allow combining the housing credit with HOME funds in high cost areas, and it would allow the use of the credit for community service areas for programs such as child care, Head Start, and job training.

We also learned of several opportunities to improve the administration of the credit and they are included in this bill. The bill would: require the submission of a timely and comprehensive market study to the allocating agency for a proposed development, prepared by a neutral party commissioned by the developer and approved by the allocating agency; require that a written explanation be available to the general public for any allocation of credits which is not made in accordance with established priorities and collection criteria; require allocating agencies to include in their qualified allocation plans requirements for regular site visits and enforcement of habitability requirements; require that State agency fees be limited to no more than the costs incurred by an allocating agency in administering the tax credit program; and provide that States that over-allocate their share of credits will experience a reduction in the following year's tax credits.

Mr. Speaker, the Clinton administration has proposed increasing the per capita cap, and the gentleman from Nevada [Mr. ENSIGN] has introduced a bill to increase the per capita cap and index it for inflation as well. I support their efforts. But we must improve the credit. I would encourage my colleagues to join the gentleman from Washington and me in sponsoring the Affordable Housing Improvement Act of 1998.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION URGING CONTINUED FISCAL DISCIPLINE

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 1998

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce a resolution calling on Congress to maintain fiscal discipline during this year's budget process and to focus our attention on

reducing the national debt and ensuring the long-term solvency of the Social Security system.

After decades of deficit spending, Congress and the Administration have taken the difficult steps necessary to eliminate the budget deficit and restore overdue fiscal responsibility to the federal government. From an all-time high of \$290 billion just six years ago, the unified budget deficit is projected to be eliminated as soon as this year, with some forecasters now predicting a growing surplus in the unified budget.

Despite this good news, we must put these near-term projections in the broader context of the long-term budget outlook and remember that those decades of deficit spending have saddled the federal government with a publicly-held debt of nearly \$3.8 trillion. This year, the interest payments alone on the debt will account for 14% of all federal spending or roughly 244 billion taxpayer dollars. These are dollars which could have been used much more wisely, and unless Congress preserves the projected surpluses, this debt is the legacy we are poised to leave to our children and grandchildren.

Congress must take advantage of the current economic growth and positive budget outlook to reduce this debt burden and address the solvency of critical programs such as Social Security. Reduced government borrowing will increase economic growth, raise future standards of living, encourage greater saving and investment, and help prepare our nation for the retirement of the baby-boom generation.

Certainly, we will have debates over additional spending and targeted tax relief, but I believe these discussions should be within the framework established by last year's historic bipartisan budget agreement. Furthermore, I believe the economic benefits of debt retirement far outweigh the short term impact of spending increases or tax cuts and therefore should be our first priority as we begin to craft this year's budget.

The resolution I introduce today states simply that during this year's budget process, Congress should focus on reducing the publicly held debt, addressing the solvency of the Social Security system, and maintaining the fiscal discipline which put us on the path to a balanced budget. Now is not the time to let spending fever grip Congress and I urge all of my colleagues to support this common sense initiative.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL REDMOND

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 1998

Mr. REDMOND. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert into the RECORD immediately after Roll Call Vote number 19 that I would have voted in the negative on this amendment. I was unavoidably detained.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

A TRIBUTE TO R. GRAYDON
BRIGGS OF GRAND LEDGE,
MICHIGAN

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 1998

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to R. Graydon Briggs of Grand Ledge, Michigan for his outstanding service to public safety.

Fire controlled is one of the man's greatest friends; unchecked, it is our deadly enemy. Each year, millions of fires kill thousands of Americans and destroy billions of dollars of property. Daily, across this nation, fire fighters risk their lives to protect us, our homes, our businesses, and our belongings. Graydon Briggs is one such man. After serving his country bravely during the Korean conflict, Mr. Briggs returned home to Michigan and began a career of service that spanned four decades. For 37-years, Mr. Briggs served his community as a firefighter protecting lives and property of Grand Ledge residents and the neighboring townships of Eagle, Oneida, and Wauertown.

His leadership abilities and organizational skills caused him to be appointed to the rank of Fire Chief. He discharged this office with integrity for 31 consecutive years. Chief Briggs had the unique ability to cohesively unite both paid and volunteer firefighters under his command. Under his dedicated leadership Grand Ledge saw many improvements in their fire department. They received their first aerial ladder truck, something uncommon to smaller rural communities. A new rescue truck with the "jaws of life" tool was added. The city's first water rescue boat was placed in service. New pumper and tankers were added. These improvements helped lower fire insurance rates for Grand Ledge.

Chief Briggs was honored in 1971 when he performed rescue breathing on a young girl rescued from an apartment fire in which she was trapped. Her life was saved by this compassionate effort by Chief Briggs.

In addition to firefighting skills and administrative capabilities, Chief Briggs became a superlative instructor. He organized and conducted numerous fire training schools and taught his art to hundreds of new firefighters. He has committed his life to the service of others.

As a Member of the Congress of the United States of America, I am pleased to rise today to recognize his accomplishments and join with his many friends and admirers in extending my highest praise and warmest wishes for many happy years to come as he enters his retirement.

**PERSECUTION OF BAHAI
CONTINUES IN IRAN**

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 1998

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, President Khatami of Iran recently addressed the American people in a televised interview in which he stated that "religiosity liberty and justice"

were the "aspirations of the Islamic Revolution." In this regard President Khatami indicated that the Iranian and American people cherished similar ideals.

Despite these hopeful statements, however, the members of the Baha'i faith in Iran still are subject to systematic persecution aimed at the destruction of this community in its own homeland. Although the number of executions of members of the Baha'i faith are down from the level of killing that occurred during the earlier phases of the Iranian revolution—two were killed during 1997 for apostasy, and the number of Baha'i in prison has fallen from 750 in 1986 to 21 at present, individual members of this faith are still subject to harassment or arrest due to their religious beliefs.

Of most concern are the state enforced measures designed to deny the ability of the Baha'i community to sustain itself. Baha'is are forbidden to elect leaders, organize schools or conduct religious activities. Elected assemblies which, since the Baha'i have no clergy, serve to govern the community were disbanded by Iranian government order in 1983. All community properties, including cemeteries, and other holy places were confiscated soon after the 1979 revolution, and none have been returned.

Baha'is are denied jobs and pensions on the basis of their faith, and Baha'i students are prevented from attending universities which, in turn denies the opportunity for economic advancement and further impoverishes the community. Members of the Baha'i faith have no legal standing and have no recourse to enforce their civil and economic rights within the Iranian judicial system.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that if we want to truly test the sincerity of President Khatami's recent offer to open a dialog with the American people we should ask his government to end the repression of the Baha'i and other religious minorities in Iran. Our government should use its voice and vote in the upcoming meeting of the UN Commission on Human Rights in Geneva to press the Iranian authorities to prove to the international community that Iranian society really does cherish religiosity, liberty and justice by ending the systematic persecution of the Baha'i and all of its religious minorities.

**PRESERVING HISTORICALLY
BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 1998

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I introduced H.R. 3266, legislation which will be of great benefit to our nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), and will help preserve a vital cultural link for this country. I am very proud that each member of the Congressional Black Caucus has joined with me in co-sponsoring this bill.

Our bill will amend the Omnibus Parks and Public Land Management Act of 1996 to provide additional funding for the preservation and restoration of historic buildings and structures at HBCUs. There is currently an authorization of \$29 million for this activity, but much more is needed.

Last year I sought a General Accounting Office (GAO) study to determine exactly the amount needed to preserve these treasures. The Congressional Black Caucus requested the GAO to conduct this survey, and after a year long undertaking, this comprehensive report was given to me on February 6th.

Every HBCU responded to the GAO survey. The report documents 712 historic properties owned by these institutions, and projects a cost of \$755 million to renovate and preserve these sites. The current authorization requires a dollar for dollar match from the schools, and the legislation I introduced will expand the authorized program by \$377.5 million. This authorization, Mr. Speaker, requires a dollar for dollar match by the school.

Mr. Speaker, once we lose a site of historic significance, it is gone forever. The extent of the threat these sites face is exemplified by their recent nomination to the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Eleven Most Endangered List. The schools which will benefit from this legislation are much more than academic institutions. For many Americans these HBCUs represent the very core of their communities, and were a source of refuge, shelter, and inspiration during the dark days of segregation. Indeed, the nomination to the Eleven Most Endangered List states in part, "During the Civil Rights Movement, HBCUs were as important as churches in the black community."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to join with me in this struggle to save a significant part of our heritage.

"WHAT NEXT IN IRAQ?"

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 1998

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, Saddam Hussein is the same brutal dictator today that he was when he gassed his own people with chemical weapons, starved them to death and machine-gunned them in mass graves. The only difference is that today he has been given a new lease on life by the United Nations. Don't get me wrong. I respect the negotiation effort by United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan in Iraq. He deserves the world's gratitude for avoiding war—for the time being.

Annan's new agreement with Iraq, however, will not end the long term conflict between Iraq and the world community, and may ultimately create more problems than it resolves. One element of the agreement calls for a "Special Group" of senior diplomats and U.N. inspection experts to inspect the eight Presidential Sites in Iraq. With the inclusion of diplomats and politicians in the inspection effort, secrecy and surprise inspections will be compromised, and U.N. efforts to discover and eliminate Iraq's weapons of mass destruction will be severely handicapped.

All of a sudden, international politics and the greed of countries like France and Russia for big profits in trade with Iraq are paramount to a successful U.N. effort to inspect and destroy dangerous weapons.

By conceding in the U.N.-Iraq Agreement to bring the issue of lifting sanctions against Iraq to the Security Council, presumably before all

inspections are completed and weapons destroyed, the world has handed Saddam Hussein a significant political victory. In fact, it would be a serious mistake to ease economic sanctions against Iraq. President Clinton correctly stated in his Pentagon speech that sanctions have already cost Hussein \$110 billion, and the President aptly wondered how much stronger Hussein's armed forces would be today without sanctions.

Bellyaching about the U.N.-Iraq Agreement, however, does not serve American interests well. Equally shortsighted is the effort to gear up for some future invasion of Iraq while our stated objective remains limited to the "substantial reduction" of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction capability. What the United States must do is commit herself to help the Iraqi people liberate their nation from Hussein's dictatorial reign.

The Clinton Administration has incorrectly concluded that the only way to overthrow Hussein is with a massive ground invasion. This assessment grossly overestimates Iraq's military strength. The weaknesses of Iraq's forces were exposed during the Gulf War in 1991, and the Iraqi military is significantly weaker now, in great part because of the cumulative effect of years of sanctions. On the other hand, American intelligence and military preparedness to successfully strike Iraq are significantly stronger.

Several Middle East experts, including Ambassador Paul Wolfowitz, Dean of International Studies at Johns Hopkins, have questioned the notion that only a comprehensive ground invasion by the U.S. can bring down Saddam Hussein. I am convinced that if we take the following steps, in addition to preparing for military action when the next inevitable crisis with Saddam Hussein occurs, we will help to facilitate democracy in Iraq and rid the world of a rogue dictator:

1. Challenge the claim of Saddam Hussein as the legitimate ruler of Iraq. No doubt this goal was made more difficult by the credibility Hussein has garnered through his new international agreement.

2. Make clear the intention of the United States to recognize a provisional government—a Free Iraq—and start with the Iraqi National Congress.

3. Find a mechanism to make the frozen assets of Iraq in the U.S. and elsewhere available to the anti-Hussein forces. The U.S. and U.K. alone have over \$1.6 billion in frozen assets which should be used to finance democratic forces in Iraq.

4. Lift economic sanctions from regions in Iraq that are wrested from Saddam Hussein's control, and make oil resources available to the anti-Hussein forces for humanitarian needs and economic development.

5. Provide weapons and logistical support to the resistance, as well as air cover for liberated areas within the Southern and Northern no-fly zones.

Saddam Hussein remains nothing less than an international war criminal who should stand trial for his crimes against humanity. He has broken every agreement he has made with the United States and the world community since the Gulf War. He will no doubt once again subvert this agreement, and when he does, we must be prepared to initiate military air strikes immediately aimed specifically at destroying Saddam's personal power infrastructure, including his communications network and the Republican guard.

Seven years after the Gulf War, Saddam Hussein is still a menace to his own people and to world peace. Only by assisting the Iraqi people to liberate themselves will we prevent Hussein from becoming an even more serious threat seven years from now.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 1998

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on 2–25–98 as I was in Central Florida with the President visiting the victims of the horrible tornadoes which struck our community.

Mr. Speaker on Roll Call #19 (the Nadler amendment to HR 1544) I would have voted no.

Mr. Speaker on Roll Call #20 (the Conyers amendment to HR 2181) I would have voted no.

Mr. Speaker on Roll Call #21 (Passage of the Witness Protection and Interstate Relocation Act) I would have voted yes.

Mr. Speaker on Roll Call #22 (the Jackson-Lee (TX) amendment to HR 1544) I would have voted no.

Mr. Speaker on Roll Call #23 (the Jackson-Lee (TX) amendment to HR 1544) I would have voted no.

Mr. Speaker on Roll Call #24 (Passage of HR 1544, Federal Agency Compliance Act) I would have voted yes.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INVESTMENT IN CHILDREN ACT

HON. BARBARA B. KENNELLY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 1998

Mrs. KENNELLY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, if there was any doubt about the need to make day care safer and more affordable, it should be erased by one clear statistic: 60 percent of mothers with children under the age of six are now in the workforce; a rate 5 times higher than 50 years ago. Of course, some might say these parents are making the wrong "choice" by going to work. But the fact is that many parents don't have a choice. Single mothers obviously have to work to support their children and an increasing number of married couples also both have to work to make ends meet. Rather than ignoring this economic reality, or questioning the role of women in the workforce, we should help these hard-working families find affordable, quality child care.

However, this does not mean we cannot also help families with a parent who stays at home to care for a young child. The debate, after all, is about caring for children, regardless of whether they are in day care or at home.

I am therefore introducing legislation today that focuses on improving child care in six critical areas. The Investment in Children Act would: (1) make day care more affordable for middle-income families by reducing their taxes; (2) provide tax relief to families with a

parent who stays at home to care for a young child; (3) help low-income working families receive day care through the current child care block grant; (4) improve child care quality and safety; (5) encourage businesses to provide child care to their employees; and (6) increase the availability of after-school care.

In my home state of Connecticut, day care costs for young children average about \$7000 a year; presenting a major financial barrier for many families. To help these families pay for quality child care, my legislation would increase the current Dependent Care Tax Credit (DCTC) for every family earning less than \$60,000. This tax cut will help hard-working, middle-income families in Connecticut and throughout the nation afford quality day care for their children. For example, a dual-income family earning \$40,000 a year with two children in routine day care would have their taxes cut by almost \$2000; double the amount of tax relief now provided by the Dependent Care Tax Credit.

The Investment in Children Act would also help those families with a parent who cares for their young children at home. The legislation would allow families with a child under the age of 4 who do not receive the Dependent Care Tax Credit to file for an expanded Child Tax Credit. This credit would be equivalent to the current \$500 Child Tax Credit plus an additional amount equal to the average increase in tax relief provided to two-worker families through the expansion of the DCTC. The provision ensures the same amount of new tax relief for one-worker families caring for a young child at home and two-worker families with a child in day care.

While a tax credit may help many middle-income Americans better afford day care, it may not help low-income working families with limited tax liability. To ensure these families also have access to quality child care, the Investment in Children Act would increase the current Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) by \$8 billion over the next 5 years. States would be required to use no less than 70 percent of this new funding to provide subsidies and other assistance to low-income, working families who need child care. While states can already access the CCDBG to help the working poor, most of the funding is dedicated now to welfare families, leaving too little help for those working in low-wage jobs and still trying to afford quality child care.

When they cannot remain at home with their children, every parent has two basic expectations of any child care arrangement: it should be safe and it should provide a stimulating and nurturing environment. To make this expectation a reality, the Investment in Children Act would spend \$3 billion over the next five years to help states check the safety of day care facilities and to improve the quality of child care programs. For example, the funds could be used by the states to: increase unannounced safety inspections of child care facilities; improve and expand training of child care providers; promote early learning programs; and reduce staff-to-child ratios.

One way to increase the availability of quality day care programs is to encourage businesses to provide on-site day care for their employees' children or to contract with existing child care providers. This legislation therefore includes the Administration's proposal to provide a 25% tax credit (up to \$150,000) for

businesses providing child care to their employees. The credit would be available to businesses for building or expanding on-site child care facilities, operating existing on-site child care facilities, or contracting with a licensed child care facility.

Finally, this legislation recognizes the need for more after-school care. Research from the FBI indicates that children between the age of 12 and 17 are most at risk for committing or being victims of violent crime between 3 and 6 pm. Other menacing issues, including teenage pregnancy, also become a problem during this interval between the school bell and the work whistle when an estimated 5 million children go without adult supervision. To provide constructive educational and recreational programs for more children during these perilous hours, the legislation would increase funding for after school programs by almost \$4 billion over the next five years. Three billion dollars of this new funding would be sent to the states as a capped entitlement to help them promote a variety of after-school programs. Additionally, the five-year authorization level for the Department of Education's 21st Century Community Learning Center Program, which provides grants to local schools or after-school care, would be increased to \$1 billion.

Before I conclude, let me remind all of my colleagues that providing additional tax relief for middle-income families to help them afford day care or care for their children at home will be drastically undercut unless we reform the Alternative Minimum Tax (ATM). Without changes, the ATM will rob 8 million families of the current \$500 Child Tax Credit over the next ten years, not to mention any potential new tax credits. The Investment in Children Act therefore includes a provision that would prevent the ATM from hitting middle-income families depending on tax credits.

Taken as a whole, the provisions in the Investment in Children Act would improve the accessibility, safety and quality of child care in America and that represents nothing less than an investment in our future. I urge all of my colleagues to support this effort to provide better care for millions of children across our great nation.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN L. "JACK" SMITH, DISTRICT DIRECTOR, CHICAGO DISTRICT OFFICE, U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 1998

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John L. "Jack" Smith, who is retiring as the District Director, Chicago District Office, of the U.S. Small Business Administration. An event will be held in his honor on Thursday, February 26, 1998, in Chicago, Illinois. Jack began his service to his country in 1951 when he joined the Navy. From 1967 to 1970, Jack worked as a loan specialist for the Economic Development Administration after two years as Director of Financial Assistance for the Business and Job Development Corp. in Pittsburgh. In October, 1973, Jack joined the Office of Minority Business Enterprise of the Department of Commerce as the Midwest Re-

gional Director in Chicago. Jack joined the SBA in November, 1975. As District Director, Jack was responsible for the administration of SBA's loan management assistance, government contract, and advocacy programs for small businesses throughout Illinois. Jack's efforts as Chicago District Director have resulted in several billion dollars in loans and federal contracts on behalf of Illinois' small business community.

Jack's 23 years as District Director and 34 years of federal service have greatly benefited Illinois' small business concerns. However, his service did not end there. Jack has volunteered his considerable expertise to benefit the Heart Association, the Kiwanis Club, United Fund and Boy Scouts of America.

I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring John L. Smith, an outstanding community and business leader and role model. I wish him the best of luck in his retirement. May he continue to share his talent and love of community that he has given to the federal government and the community at large.

WITNESS PROTECTION AND INTER-STATE RELOCATION ACT OF 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2181) to ensure the safety of witnesses and to promote notification of the interstate relocation of witnesses by States and localities engaging in the relocation, and for other purposes:

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to H.R. 2181, the Witness Protection and Interstate Relocation Act of 1997. Although I support the witness notification and relocation provision in this bill as well as the goals of the witness intimidation provisions, I object strongly to the inclusion of the death penalty for witness intimidation that results in death. It is also troubling that the death penalty is again applied for conspiracy offenses. This subjects a defendant to be sentenced to death without tangible evidence of guilt of murder and substantially increases the risk of a mistaken conviction and execution. I cite the report from the Death Penalty Information Center, "Innocence and the Death Penalty: The Increasing Danger of Mistaken Executions," which reports 69 instances since 1973 in which condemned prisoners were released from death row because of wrongful convictions. It did not have figures on how many innocent people were actually executed.

I concur with the American Bar Association's resolution that the system for administering the death penalty in the United States is unfair and lacks adequate safeguards. The Bar Association resolution goes on to declare that a moratorium should be imposed on executions until a greater degree of fairness and due process is in place.

There is compelling evidence from many jurisdictions that the race of the defendant is the primary factor governing the imposition of the death sentence. In the Ocmulgee judicial circuit in Georgia, the district attorney sought the death penalty in 29 cases between 1974 and

1994; in 23 of those 29 cases—79 percent—the defendant was black, although blacks make up only 44 percent of the circuit's population. Another instance of the distorted effect of the death sentence is the evidence emerging under the Federal death penalty for drug kingpins. Of 37 defendants against whom the death penalty was sought between 1988 and 1994, 4 defendants were white, 4 were Hispanic, and 29 were black.

It has been 25 years since the U.S. Supreme Court invalidated the death penalty in *Furman v. Georgia*; there is now a large body of evidence to indicate that the death penalty is still imposed in a manner that goes beyond the words of the law. It targets African-Americans in a totally unacceptable way and although I strongly support improving the safety of witnesses and increasing the coordination between the Federal and State governments in protecting and relocating witnesses, I cannot support legislation which imposes an overtly prejudicial death penalty. I urge my colleagues to defeat this bill.

THE PERSIAN GULF VETERANS ACT OF 1998

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 1998

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing the Persian Gulf Veterans Act of 1998. This important legislation offers a framework for compensating veterans suffering from Gulf War illnesses, responds to the need many veterans have expressed for identifying effective models to treat hard-to-define diseases, and addressed other problems Congress has investigated since 1992. Joining with me, as original cosponsors of the Persian Gulf War Veterans Act of 1998, are my distinguished colleagues, Representatives ABERCROMBIE, BISHOP, BLAGOJEVICH, BROWN, CARSON, CLYBURN, FILNER, GUTIERREZ, KENNEDY(MA), MASCARA, ORTIZ, PETERSON, REYES, RODRIGUEZ, and UNDERWOOD. I am also pleased the Persian Gulf Veterans Act of 1998 has the support of the major groups advocating on behalf of Persian Gulf veterans. The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. and Vietnam Veterans of America have all expressed support for this measure.

Seven years ago this week, allied ground forces, with air and naval support, countered Iraq's invasion of its neighbor Kuwait. Of the nearly 700,000 American troops who served in the Persian Gulf theatre, about 100,000 have signed onto registries maintained by the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs. The Departments' estimates of those registered who have diagnoses which are not easily treated vary from 10–25 percent. Meeting the needs of those suffering from illnesses, including those which defy ready diagnoses and treatments, is a continuing obligation of our nation—an obligation we must honor. With the current buildup of American troops in the Persian Gulf region, the need for enacting the Persian Gulf Veterans Act of 1998 is even more compelling.

The Persian Gulf Veterans Act of 1998 calls for an independent agency to advise the Department of Veterans Affairs on the appropriateness of the federal research agenda on

the numerous illnesses suffered by Gulf vets and the probable causes of these illnesses. The research review would lay the foundation for compensating Persian Gulf War veterans by determining where associations can be made between specific exposures and illnesses and where other information must be considered.

It may take years to determine why so many veterans are sick, but we know one thing for sure. Our veterans are suffering and many share similar symptoms that are not attributable to any particular cause. It seems fair to use these symptoms, rather than some yet-to-be-determined causes as the basis for compensation. While this approach would require scientist to determine which conditions are most likely the result of Gulf War service, veterans would not have to prove that a certain exposure caused an adverse health outcome. That would require some science that simply does not exist.

Determining the "prevalence" of the illnesses Gulf War veterans experience more often than other veterans from the same era, is an epidemiologic approach endorsed by scientists from the President's Gulf War advisory panel. On February 5th, Dr. Arthur Caplan, a member of the Presidential Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses, stated that his Committee felt that a prevalence model gave the veterans the greatest benefit of the doubt. According to Dr. Caplan, "Gulf War Illness is a very real phenomena. No one on this committee should doubt that for a moment . . . What should be forthcoming . . . is an unwavering commitment from this Congress and this administration to provide the health and disability benefits to all those who became sick when they came back from the Gulf."

The Persian Gulf Veterans Act of 1998 would also require the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS/IOM) to review emerging technologies to assess exposure to agents that may have been present in the Gulf or to identify new diagnostic tools for some conditions. It would ask the NAS/IOM to assess the most effective treatment protocols for illnesses like those from which Persian Gulf veterans suffer and to review the research undertaken by the federal government and offer its own assessment of the research to date along with identifying research that should be done to fill the knowledge gaps. This would provide the "third-party" perspective sought by many Persian Gulf veterans, as well as the American public. The Persian Gulf Veterans Act of 1998 would also require the information infrastructure VA, DOD and Congress need to review the extent of veterans' health care problems and monitor these agencies' abilities to address them with adequate compensation and health care services.

We must never give up on our efforts to learn why many of our Gulf vets are sick, but we must also use the best available means to treat their symptoms and to compensate them for their disabilities. Our veterans deserve the benefit of the doubt on this issue, and that's what the Persian Gulf Veterans Act of 1998 is designed to give them.

PREVENTING THE TRANSMISSION OF HIV

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 1998

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month the Subcommittee on Health and Environment of the Commerce Committee held a hearing on "Preventing the Transmission of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)," at which a number of witnesses discussed the problems related to this serious health issue facing our nation. The subcommittee also considered legislation that has been introduced in the House relating to HIV transmission. I requested the opportunity to present a statement for inclusion in the record of the hearing, Mr. Speaker, because of the importance of this issue to my congressional district and because of the serious national importance of this health problem. Unfortunately, there is considerable misunderstanding of the issue and the best way to deal with it.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my statement to the Subcommittee on Health and Environment be placed in the RECORD, and I urge my colleagues to give thoughtful consideration to this important issue. It is probable that the House will be considering legislation involving the transmission of HIV later this year, and it is important that all of us here in this body be well informed on this issue.

STATEMENT OF CONGRESSMAN TOM LANTOS
HEARING OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH
AND ENVIRONMENT ON PREVENTING THE
TRANSMISSION OF THE HUMAN IMMUNO-
DEFICIENCY VIRUS (HIV)

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

Mr. Chairman, I thank you for conducting this hearing on HIV transmission and prevention and for this opportunity to express my support of our country's public health efforts in dealing with this serious epidemic.

As you know, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) reports over 600,000 AIDS cases reported nationally since the outbreak of the AIDS epidemic. Annually, 40,000 new HIV infections are reported and approximately 650,000-900,000 Americans are diagnosed HIV-positive. According to the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, California alone currently reports over 100,000 cases which accounts for nearly 18% of all AIDS cases in the U.S. Only New York reports a larger total number of AIDS cases. These figures indicate precisely why the fight against HIV transmission and infection is a top public health priority.

Despite these overwhelming numbers associated with HIV infection, I am greatly encouraged by the fact that California has recently reported a 60% decline in AIDS-related deaths in the first six months of 1997, as compared to the first six months of 1996. And it is especially urgent that we understand what has enabled California to dramatically decrease its number of AIDS deaths and cases so that we may reproduce these efforts and continue to successfully combat the disease. Federal funding has been a main impetus through which we have developed new drug therapies, and we cannot underestimate the significance of improved access to medical care and increased prevention efforts in reducing AIDS transmission and fatalities.

Our country needs to take an intelligent approach to the AIDS epidemic. By intelligent approach, I mean that we need to take into account how different populations are affected by this disease. We now know that

new HIV infections in the U.S. occurs among people between the ages of 13 and 20. Young gay and bisexual men experience disproportionately high numbers of AIDS cases and HIV infections. We know that the proportion of AIDS cases has risen among women and among several minority groups, despite declining in several other populations. The facts are compelling, and rather than ignore these facts, we should direct our attention to specific populations that have been specifically affected.

Research and science are our tools; we should use them to guide us in our federal policies. Because the scientific and statistical findings in regards to HIV transmission indicate significantly different proportions of HIV infection in different population groups, I am fully supportive and a proud cosponsor of H.R. 1219, the Comprehensive HIV Prevention Act of 1997, introduced by my esteemed colleagues Representative Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Representative Constance Morella (R-MD). Their legislation will promote targeted, primary prevention programs that effectively consider the increasing challenge for high risk populations such as people of color and women. H.R. 1219 would enhance federal coordination and planning by giving authority and responsibility for developing a strategic HIV prevention and appropriations plan to the Secretary of HHS, in consultation with an Advisory Committee. In addition, the bill will authorize further research for investigating possible new HIV infection sites. With its provisions for community-based prevention programs, counseling and testing programs, treatment and related services for rape victims, funding for AIDS/HIV education and information dissemination, as well as adolescent and school-based programs—the Pelosi-Morella act is a thorough and natural extension of current HIV prevention programs in the United States. It will approach HIV prevention through methods that are locally defined, community-based, and that utilize at-risk population targeting.

In contrast, the HIV Prevention Act of 1997 (H.R. 1062) is based upon a belief that identifying individuals who are HIV positive, in and of itself, can prevent new infections. It is a major setback to the progress we have been making in implementing effective HIV prevention programs. Despite the fact that no other disease is required to be reported by federal mandate, and despite the fact that the CDC has not requested that Congress create such an unprecedented mandate for HIV, H.R. 1062 still calls for mandatory partner notification.

Furthermore, H.R. 1062 mandates reporting of HIV infected people to the State public health officer and the CDC. Not only should HIV reporting remain a state responsibility, but this mandate is a coercive measure which would discourage people at risk for HIV from seeking treatment and testing at a time when we are making impressive breakthroughs in new treatments. This measure would only hurt our efforts to slow HIV transmission, a public health concern. There is no reason for us to isolate and differentiate HIV from other sexually transmitted diseases, nor to stigmatize HIV infected citizens.

The creation of a national partner notification program as would be mandated by H.R. 1062 would also be an unnecessary waste of resources. Furthermore, the Ryan White CARE Act Amendments of 1996 already requires states to administer partner/spousal notification programs as a condition of receiving HIV care funding. The HIV Prevention Act of 1997 would prevent state and local officials from effectively targeting their programs and making decisions to meet the needs of their individual, unique

populations. We cannot tolerate a reductive one-size-fits all solution to HIV infection, a complex epidemic.

We should not simplify our efforts to prevent HIV transmission. In fighting the epidemic of HIV, we have learned a great deal from our colleagues in scientific research. Because I believe that needle exchange programs have proven to be an effective and cost-effective way of reducing the spread of HIV, I am delighted to also be a cosponsor of H.R. 2212, the HIV Prevention Outreach Act of 1997, introduced by Representatives Elijah Cummings and Nancy Pelosi.

A single clean syringe costs less than 10 cents, and treatment for one HIV-infected individual costs over \$100,000. More than half a billion dollars in health care expenditures could be avoided through the implementation of needle exchange programs. There is a tragic cost to not acting and implementing needle exchange programs. The Cummings-Pelosi bill would end the ban on federal funding of needle exchange programs, and along with H.R. 1219, it enables us to battle AIDS in such a way that does not ignore the inroads we have already made into how the disease has affected certain populations.

It is my pleasure to announce that I am not alone in my sentiments about needle exchange. The findings of the scientific community support my view that needle exchange is a necessary and extremely efficient way of dealing with HIV transmission. To date, six federally funded studies, including a Consensus Development Conference by the National Institutes of Health and also a study by the University of California, San Francisco for the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, all demonstrate the effectiveness of needle exchange in reducing an important risk factor for HIV transmission. It is not a coincidence that by providing clean needles to injection drug users who comprise nearly 50% of newly infected HIV victims, we are slowing the spread of HIV not only to those who will use the needles but to their partners and their children as well.

This information has found the ears of the American public, approximately 66% of which support needle exchange. Distinguished and respected public health organizations such as the American Medical Association, the American Public Health Association, as well as public officials and legal groups such as the United States Conference of Mayors and the American Bar Association have all heard the facts supporting needle exchange and are supportive of preserving the authority of the Secretary of Health and Human Services to determine if federal funds can be used for needle exchange programs.

In the matter of HIV transmission and infection, we should listen to what our scientific knowledge makes undeniable; we need comprehensive programs such as those authorized by the Pelosi-Morella bill, and we need to give our public health officials the means to combat HIV through needle exchange, as expressed through the Cummings-Pelosi bill.

I urge the Congress not to delay the use of federal funds for needle exchange programs. Furthermore, I want to reiterate the importance of learning from our research investigations of HIV infection and AIDS cases. The spread of HIV has taken a specific path that we have traced, and that we must take steps to counteract. The word is out that needle exchange is a successful way of addressing HIV transmission. The word is out that we can best approach this problem by funding research and funding programs that will allow states to target and address the specific developments of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. We need to lift the ban on federal funding of needle exchange and to address

the needs of children, women, and minorities who are affected by AIDS and the HIV infection.

Thank you again for holding this important hearing. I hope you will be supportive of state and local officials in their efforts to combat HIV transmission and infection.

TRIBUTE TO DOYLE WILLIAMS

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 1998

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing Doyle Williams, retiring Business Manager and Financial Secretary of the Plumbers and Steamfitters' Local 342.

Doyle has long been an active and committed member of Local 342. Being initiated as an apprentice in May 1959, Doyle soon became a leader amongst his union brothers. Understanding the importance of a strong union organization to his community's many working men and women, Doyle undertook to position Local 342 as an integral member of Contra Costa County's labor movement. His personal involvement with the California State Pipe Trades Council, the Central Labor Council of Contra Costa County, the Contra Costa Building & Construction Trades Council and many other such organizations, has benefitted not only the members of his own union, but all of those working in the trades.

I would like to personally thank Doyle for his activism in the area of public policy. On the numerous occasions that I have addressed the House on behalf of our country's working men and women—on such critical issues as the minimum wage, occupational safety, national trade policies, to name just a few—Doyle was always there to let me know that I spoke with the support of labor. His thoughts and counsel over the years have been invaluable to me, and it has been my honor to work with him.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives I would like to congratulate Doyle Williams and wish him a happy and healthy retirement.

THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOROUGH OF RIVERDALE, MORRIS COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 1998

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Borough of Riverdale, Morris County, New Jersey. Although not an independent municipality until 1923, Riverdale has a long a rich history that extends well before the Revolutionary War.

Riverdale was first settled by Dutch and English pioneers in 1695 and was part of a larger area historically known as Pompton, after the local Indian village and tribe that bore the same name. The borough itself went through several name changes since its first settlement—called at First New Greenwich, then Townsha—and remained a subsection of

Pequannock Township until its official incorporation 75 years ago.

While the area was originally farm country, by the early 1800's Riverdale was a place of great activity. Along with the introduction of its first school house in 1812, there existed a thriving business in wooden staves, hoops and hoop poles. In the late 19th century, with the coming of the railroad and the establishment of several larger businesses—including DuPont, a rock quarry and two rubber factories—the population of Riverdale increased rapidly. Many more houses were erected in the area, and a newer, and larger, schoolhouse was built by 1904.

Interestingly, the issue of school size, and the desire to avoid being taxed for the construction of a large schoolhouse in the Pequannock section of town, was actually one of the decisive factors that spurred Riverdale residents to form an independent borough. After many long meetings by the New Jersey state legislature, Riverdale residents were finally granted the right in 1923 to officially separate from Pequannock, and incorporate as an independent municipality.

For the past 75 years, Riverdale Borough has prospered as a community and continues to thrive today. While still covering the same 1.8 square mile area that it has for several centuries—ranking it as the second smallest municipality in Morris County—Riverdale has nonetheless emerged as one of its fastest growing communities. By all accounts, the Borough of Riverdale will continue to prosper in the future, and I ask you, Mr. Speaker, and my colleagues to congratulate all residents of Riverdale on this special anniversary year.

NATIONAL FOREST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES NEED ATTENTION

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, the health of the national forests in the west and the economies of rural western communities are at risk from current national forest management practices. Severe threats from fire, insects and disease endanger the forests and the health, happiness and well-being of the citizens of Colorado. While properly utilized timber harvests can effectively contribute to restoring the health of forests, timber programs on the national forests have been almost completely eliminated in Colorado.

There has been an unprecedented increase in the annual net growth of national forests since the turn of the century. Historical records and studies of paired "then and now" photographs suggest that the growth potential of timber has been consistently and seriously underestimated. Many scientists believe that Colorado has more, and older, trees now than at any time in recorded history.

It is well established that healthy forests have a diversity of age classes and successional stages. However, our forests have changed with the passage of time. Decreased use of our resources appears to have resulted in the overgrowth of shade-tolerant understory plant species, the overload of forest fuels, increased numbers of trees, and, alarmingly, a

decrease in overall forest diversity. Increased forest volume and denser canopies cause more rain and snow to evaporate into the atmosphere before reaching the forest floor. That evaporation leads to a decrease in available water supplies for threatened and endangered species, drinking water and agricultural supplies.

Insect outbreaks and large, intense fires are becoming more common and more severe on these dense, homogeneous forests. Currently, 20–30 million acres of National Forests are susceptible to catastrophic wildfires. As suburban populations migrate further away from the cities, forest fires consume more property and, tragically, more lives. Those fires also cause serious air and water quality problems. In the wake of destructive fires, erosion and flooding contribute to the degradation of mountain streams, and ultimately, to our water supplies.

Mr. Speaker, the health and capacity of forests is directly related to the volume of timber harvested. Without harvesting, thinning or prescribed burns, timber inventory accumulates to the point where growth is impeded, and stands become susceptible to wildfires, beetle infestations and disease. Timber harvests add valuable and essential resources to the economy while reducing the potential for catastrophic fires by eliminating dangerously high levels of fuels. While many advocate the use of prescribed fires, without the complement of timber harvests, even those fires may have detrimental side effects. For example, prescribed burns often destroy economically viable and renewable resources while violating air quality and visibility standards.

In recent times, the U.S. Forest Service has shifted away from their mission of multiple uses and sustained yield. Competing public interests push the Forest Service to a management style motivated not by sound policy, but by fear of special interest backlash. Management, it seems, is controlled not by what is best for the forest, but by what interest group protests the loudest. Meanwhile, timber budgets and timber sales decline and administrative costs escalate. Directing funds away from timber budgets negates Forest Management plans, undermines public input into the process, and harms the forest ecosystem. Such impediments to the Forest Service mission have resulted in a de facto policy of reduced management, increased risk of wildfires, and deteriorating forest health.

Better national forest timber programs are essential to the proper stewardship of America's forests and to the health, condition and integrity of the environment. Accordingly, I strongly urge my colleagues and the Chief of the U.S. Forest Service to support proper harvest management tools to ensure better forest health throughout the country. Moreover, I urge the Congress to support the Rocky Mountain Regional Forester's strategy to reverse the decline of forest management programs and to reach a more effective program level by the year 2000. Finally, I implore all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives to support Congressional efforts to improve efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability in the management of our national forests.

TRIBUTE TO DR. MONROE D. SENTER

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 1998

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, for many years Dr. Monroe D. Senter has been a highly respected member of the Knoxville community. A few days ago, Dr. Senter celebrated his 100th birthday. On this occasion, I would like to call his career and many accomplishments to the attention of my colleagues and readers of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Dr. Senter was born on February 21, 1898, in Knoxville, Tennessee. I am told that as a young man he walked nearly ten miles each day to attend high school. He was president of his class, played football, and graduated as Valedictorian in 1919.

Dr. Senter went on to study at Knoxville College and later earned his Masters Degree from the University of Minnesota. In 1966 he was conferred with an honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from Knoxville College.

In his long career as an educator, Dr. Senter served as a teacher at College High School and Austin High School and was the Principal of Beardsley Junior High School for over 30 years. In addition, for two years he acted as Director of Education and Guidance for the U.S. Department of Education in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Senter has been President of the Knoxville Education Association, the East Tennessee Education Association, the Tennessee Education Association, the Tennessee State Teachers Association, and the American Teachers Central Division.

However, Dr. Senter's contributions are not only in the realm of education. He has been involved in a long list of community organizations including the Knoxville College Trustee Board, the Y.M.C.A., the National Urban League, the Kiwanis Club, and his church, the Lennon Seney United Methodist Church.

The citizens of Knoxville certainly owe a debt of gratitude to Dr. Senter for his many years of service and dedication to the community.

The world would be a much better place if we had more men like Dr. Monroe Senter.

A SEASON FOR NONVIOLENCE

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 1998

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give my support to "A Season for Nonviolence", an international grassroots movement in commemoration of the 50th and 30th anniversaries of the assassinations of Mahatma Mohandas K. Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr.

"A Season for Nonviolence" envisions a better world for all human beings. This movement's actions are based on values firmly rooted in our society's diverse beliefs and traditions. To this end, "Gandhi/King: A Season for Nonviolence" applies its efforts and resources to identifying and bringing into full public focus the rich spectrum of grassroots

projects and programs by individuals and organizations who are promoting a culture of peace.

During the period between January 30, 1998 and April 4, 1998 groups throughout the world will sponsor projects and programs to create greater awareness and consciousness of the principles and practices of nonviolence, including symposia on interfaith and inter-racial healing; days of dialogue, prayer and meditation; artistic and cultural events; essay contests and special activities for children.

In my home city of Chicago, many groups are working to focus the hearts and minds of our citizens on nonviolence in recognition and celebration of "A Season for Nonviolence."

I commend the efforts of all of the groups and individuals in Chicago and across America who are dedicating their time and resources to this noble goal. I am very pleased and honored to recognize them today.

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE LAST SUNDAY IN FEBRUARY AS A NATIONAL DAY OF CARING

HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 1998

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to commemorate the last Sunday in February as a National Day of Caring. This day is set aside for communities to show concern for those among them who are homeless and to call attention to the additive effect of individuals in alleviating the suffering of people in need. Since 1991, residents of Ohio's Miami Valley have come together and offered a variety of ways to serve those less fortunate on the Day of Caring. My colleague, Representative TONY HALL, and I personally have been long-time participants and co-chairmen of this important day. I am proud to have had the opportunity on five occasions to join in by cooking pancakes at the annual Day of Caring Kickoff Breakfast alongside other concerned Miami Valley residents.

Over the past seven years, the Day of Caring has been a tremendous success. Thousands of area residents have participated. In all, over \$110,000 has been raised for donations to area organizations that serve the needy. Additionally, The Day of Caring provides an opportunity to acknowledge those who combat the problems that plague the hungry and the homeless. It promotes many of the area organizations whose primary mission is to address the needs of those less fortunate. Local affiliations of organizations such as the United Way, Hospice, Aim for the Handicapped, the Red Cross, and Habitat for Humanity individually sponsor events. Volunteers from the Franciscan Medical Center, The Good Neighbor House, The Girl Scout Council, and the Mad River Lion's Club also participate. The Day of Caring truly celebrates the spirit of volunteerism that is alive and well in the Miami Valley.

This past Sunday, February 22, 1998, was this year's Day of Caring. Nearly 1,000 volunteers kicked off the day with the Day of Caring Pancake Brunch at seventeen different locations in the Miami Valley. Two locations offered over 500 free brunches for the hungry and homeless. Fifteen sites served over 7,000

pancake and sausage breakfasts in an annual fundraising effort. Congregations of all denominations and organizations participated in raising funds this year for the Emergency Housing Coalition and the Hunger Coalition.

The factors that contribute to homelessness, such as joblessness, financial distress, chemical dependency, mental illness, and domestic violence are immensely complicated. Concerns about providing adequate health care and education for those in need weigh heavily on the minds of many. While these problems will not be solved quickly or easily, The Day of Caring highlights that a ground-swell of concern by our communities really can make a difference. The dream of the first Day of Caring Committee was to bring communities together under the common thread of caring and giving of time, talent, and support. It is certainly realized every year on the last Sunday in February in the Miami Valley. I would be wonderful if other communities might also follow the Miami Valley's lead and participate in their own local activities next year on the Day of Caring.

TRIBUTE TO MELVA BUCKSBAUM

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 1998

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the invaluable contributions of Mrs. Melva Bucksbaum. Mrs. Bucksbaum has distinguished herself as a strong supporter of the arts and through her numerous accomplishments has earned the honor of being recognized at the Jewish Museum's "Festa do Brazil", a masked ball in celebration of Purim.

Melva has promoted art throughout the United States and Israel, with a particular dedication to contemporary art and artists. Her generosity toward The Jewish Museum's Legacy Campaigns helped make possible the Museum's expansion and renovation, as well as the creation of a vital endowment fund.

In addition to sitting on the Boards of the Jewish Museum and the Des Moines Art Center, Mrs. Bucksbaum serves with a number of other distinguished institutions: the Graduate School of Design, Harvard University; the International Committee of the Tate Museum, London; the Whitney Museum; American Friends of Israel Museum; Save Venice; the Independent Curator's Association; the Kennedy Center's National Committee for the Performing Arts and the International Council of the Museum of Modern Art. Since 1995, Mrs. Bucksbaum has actively managed the Martin Bucksbaum Family Foundation, which is listed as one of the founders of the United States Holocaust Museum.

Mr. Speaker, on March 4, Melva will be recognized by the Jewish Museum for her years of community service as this year's Purim Ball honoree. It is an honor and a pleasure for me to join the Museum in honoring Melva Bucksbaum on this very special occasion.

FOREST HEALTH AND MANAGEMENT

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 1998

Mr. SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, each fall, scores of people travel to the high country to witness the changing colors of Colorado's aspen trees. The changing leaves symbolize our state's diverse, scenic environment as well as its thriving economy. Sadly, a recent study by the Club 20 Research Foundation concludes that Colorado's aspen are at a risk due to years of mismanagement by the federal government.

Club 20 was founded in 1953 by various individuals, counties, communities, businesses and associations in Western Colorado. This grass roots organization follows a broad range of issues and provides a valuable forum for considering the many complex and controversial issues facing our state. Club 20 exemplifies local involvement aimed at providing educational, environmental and economic benefits to our state. I applaud their efforts and their research and commend my colleagues to consider Club 20's findings.

James Hubbard, Colorado's State Forester, warns that if the Forest Service continues to manage as they do presently, most of Colorado's aspen trees will disappear within the next forty to fifty years. According to the Forest Service, the average age of aspen in Western Colorado is between 90 and 110 years, well beyond the point at which they mature and begin to deteriorate. Unless the Forest Service adopts an aggressive management regime designed to restore the health of Colorado's aspen trees, our aspen stands will be lost due to disease, insect infestation and decay.

Congress directed the Forest Service to manage forest lands for multiple use and sustained yields. Today, Forest Service practices show a disturbing trend towards a lack of active management. Unfortunately, those practices seem to be driven not by what is best for the forest, but by what group protests the loudest. That dynamic thwarts good policy and prohibits resource management.

The federal government, which controls more than 70% of the land on Colorado's Western Slope, has neglected to manage for the health of our forests. Their neglect is unforgivable given the consensus among foresters that, without active management, aspen trees die off and fail to regenerate.

The Forest Service and the Department of Interior advocate drastic increases in the use of prescribed burns as a management tool. While some advocate prescribed burns as a "natural" alternative to timber management, even proponents concede that prescribed burns fail to regenerate aspen stands, which do not burn easily. Moreover, prescribed burns have serious detrimental effects on air and water quality.

Selective timber harvesting provides an effective alternative to prescribed burns. Small, patch-work timber cuts facilitate the regeneration of aspen stands, provide economic benefits to the state, and enhance wildlife habitat without detrimental effects on air and water quality. Selective cuts of less than 40 acres allow for the regeneration of aspen trees with-

out replanting. Responsible, well-planned cuts diversify forest ecosystems while leaving many large, standing aspens, and providing valuable habitat for wildlife, including many threatened and endangered species.

Timber management requires access to stands in need of regeneration. Unfortunately, the Clinton Administration advocates a "no access" policy to a large portion of our public lands. Well over 34 million acres of our public lands could be off-limits to access for recreation and management under the Administration's proposed forest transportation policy. That decline is particularly disturbing in light of the Clinton Administration's plans to sever a vital link between local communities and their forests by discontinuing timber-based revenues for schools and roads in favor of a formula developed by the federal government.

There are more aspen trees in Colorado than any other state. Aspen are symbolic of the changing seasons in a state that prides itself on a strong economy, a good quality of life, and an appreciation for the out-of-doors. National forests in Colorado account for not only the production of timber but for a large part of the state's economic benefit from recreation and tourism.

The Forest Service's de facto policy of reducing harvests, increasing the risk of catastrophic wildfires, and deteriorating forest health is unacceptable. It is time for the Forest Service to manage the forests as Congress directed it to for multiple use and sustained yields. Such a policy is best for the health of our forests and for the vitality of our state.

Mr. Speaker, I am working closely with my colleagues on the House Resources Committee and the Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health to ensure that the Forest Service and the Administration hear Colorado's message loud and clear. On February 25th, the subcommittee conducted oversight hearings on the Administration's roadless area moratorium. There, we considered testimony from county commissioners, forestry experts and Forest Service officials on the issue of access to public lands. On March 26th, we will hold another hearing before the House Resources, Budget and Appropriations Committees into the operations, budgeting and management of the Forest Service. There, with my colleagues, I hope to examine better management alternatives and push for positive change. Proper management of our national forests can provide habitat for wildlife as well as recreational and economic resources for America.

STATEMENT OF LYNN EXE

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 1998

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, last year in my Congressional Office in Bridgewater, Massachusetts, I met with an eloquent and dedicated patriot, Lynn Exe, who described to me her disappointment at the way in which the Fleet Reserve Association dealt with her insurance situation. At her request, I am entering into the RECORD her description of her objection, and her invitation to the FRA to respond. I do so as Mrs. Exe's Representative in the House, who believes that she as a

citizen deserves the right to be heard. The First Amendment to the Constitution, to which we all pay homage, singles out a few basic rights for particular emphasis, and one of those is the right to petition for the redress of grievances. Mrs. Exe chooses to do so, and as her Representative in Congress, I am pleased to be able to do my constitutional duty and insert her petition at this point in the RECORD.

Bridgewater Mass., January 21, 1998.

CONGRESSMAN BARNEY FRANK,

DEAR SIR, My husband, John B. Exe, United States navy, retired, served his country with honor and dedication and retired after 20 years service. During my husband service he took out the FRA insurance plan. He was told by the navy that should he pay high premiums in the event of his death his widow would not have to pay any further insurance premiums.

My husband had great love for his country and the navy. Therefore he believed that his country would honor the pledge they made to him and other service men.

Shortly after my husband's death I received my first insurance premium, due and payable. Upon making enquiries I was told the funding had run out. Later I was told by a representative of FRA that the navy had told them to stop paying widows and to put funding into HMO's. This is a lie still being told our service men and retirees. In other words our service men do not deserve the truth. Once again this country has broken faith.

Should this happen in Bosnia, Iraq, Mongolia the United States would call this genocide. I call what the United States has done genocide against widows of service men in the United States.

A US judge ruled that retirees can sue the government for breaking the promise of free lifetime health care.

Now as usual the navy has once again proved inept with the closure of military bases dependents now have to go to an outside pharmaceutical CO. Which has not been organized completely a dependent obtaining meds through mail order often have to wait two to three weeks. God help our heart patients. Also, after submitting prescriptions which are being returned due to changes which are not notified of this causes another wait for the patient. It would appear the navy had knowledge and plenty of time to organize instead of which they appear to create confusion and more disorganization.

Does anyone really care my words are just a whisper, but I am sure they will eventually become a loud roar. And many more people will become aware of tactics which the government and United States Navy have done their best to keep secret.

The genocide to our retirees and their families must **STOP!!!**

The buck stops here gentlemen. It is now **YOUR** responsibility. I will be very surprised but very interested to obtain a response.

I am 73 years of age. I would like to see changes in what time I have left.

LYNNE EXE.

SUPPORT FOR H.R. 1995

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 1998

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, the Point Reyes National Seashore Farmland Protection Act, H.R. 1995, is a unique solution to a grow-

ing problem in our country—How do we protect disappearing farmland while simultaneously protecting our natural resources?

Keeping local farms in agriculture is absolutely essential to local economies across the country, and California's Sixth Congressional District is a prime example. Approximately, 167,000 acres—half of Marin County's total land—are farms or ranches. In Sonoma County, 40 percent of the 1.2 million acres of land is agriculture. The majority of this farmland is divided into small third and fourth generation family-owned operations. Of the 285 agricultural operations currently in Marin County, 78 are considered large farms (annual gross income of \$100,000 or more), and 207 are considered small or mini-farms. The average farm size is 588 acres.

By authorizing the purchase of agricultural conservation easements, H.R. 1995 allows willing landowners to receive compensation for keeping their farms in agriculture. At the same time, the lands remain on the tax rolls, and private property rights are protected. The majority of local landowners support this bill—including Joe and Doris Mendoza.

POINT REYES STATION, CA,

November 7, 1997.

Hon. JAMES HANSEN,

Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands,

U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. HANSEN: We are writing in support of Lynn Woolsey's legislation H.R. 1995, the Point Reyes National Seashore Farmland Protection Act. We operate a 500-cow dairy on the "Historic B Ranch" located on the Point Reyes peninsula which became part of the Point Reyes National Seashore when it was authorized in 1962. We have enjoyed a favorable tenant/landlord relationship with the National Park Service for over 25 years, and have operated a viable business partnership with our son during that period.

We reinvested our proceeds from the sale of the "B" Ranch in 2,300 acres of land on the east side of Tomales Bay. This property lies within the boundary of the Farmland Protection Act. Lynn Woolsey has worked very diligently to write this legislation in a manner to address the concerns of the agricultural land owners while protecting the interests of the people of the United States and their investment in the lands of the Park.

We feel that this innovative concept protects the land from development for the benefit of the park while providing for agriculture's need of a "critical mass". It leaves the land in private ownership and on the local tax rolls. Win! Win! We also greatly support the principle of using a local land trust to administer this arrangement.

Please enter our support of H.R. 1995.

Sincerely,

J.H. MENDOZA, SR.
DORIS S. MENDOZA.

OVERRIDE OF MILITARY CONSTRUCTION LINE-ITEM VETOES

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 1998

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to praise our colleagues in the Senate for successfully overriding the veto of H.R. 2631, which will restore all 38 Military Construction projects canceled by the President late last year.

As Chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, I have visited U.S. bases at home and around the world and I have been shocked at the deplorable working and living conditions we are asking our soldiers and their families to endure. The Military Construction Bill funds family housing as well as construction of troop barracks, hospital and medical facilities, schools and child-care centers for military personnel and their families stationed here and abroad.

Mr. Speaker, the fact is, we did our homework and crafted a responsible bill. Every project in this bill meets a validated military requirement and every project is executable this fiscal year. The bill we sent to the President was \$610 million less than last year's bill and almost \$2 billion less than the level just two years ago. That is hardly wasteful spending.

I have long supported the line-item veto authority and Congress' responsibility to correct the President's mistakes when he makes them. Within two days of vetoing 38 items on the Military Construction Bill, the Administration admitted it made mistakes on two cancellations. Hours later, that number was up to eleven and then eighteen. The line-item veto is a powerful tool and Congress must ensure that this new authority is held to the highest possible standard.

The line-item veto can be a useful tool if it is used fairly, carefully and responsibly. Mr. Speaker, we sent a strong message yesterday that Congress will accept nothing less.

CONGRATULATIONS TO NANCY LEE HINDS

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 1998

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Nancy Lee Hinds, the founder of Hinds' Hospice Home Foundation in Fresno, for being recognized with the Social Action Award. Nancy Lee Hinds has dedicated her life to the dying and their families, and is very deserving of this honor.

The award for Social Action is named annually by Temple Beth Israel for works on the diocesan and community levels. The award recognizes the long practice of Christian virtues. Nancy Lee Hinds was chosen for this award based on both her current work and her instrumental efforts to have hospices recognized throughout the state.

Nancy Hinds' Hospice Foundation is a non-profit organization that provides care for those who have life limiting illnesses and no further medical treatment available. Hinds' Hospice Foundation has cared for patients that range in age from 3 months to 103 years. The Hospice Foundation also provides outpatient care that involves volunteers caring for patients in their own homes. Outpatient volunteers also perform such duties as yard work, grocery shopping, and haircutting.

Nancy Lee Hinds was born and educated in Cleveland, Ohio. There she received a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing. In 1970, she married Godfrey Hinds, a missionary doctor in Ireland. In 1977, her husband died of cancer in Northern Ireland. Following the death of her husband, Nancy opened her arms and doors to the dying and has been

dedicating her life to caring for them ever since.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I congratulate Nancy Lee Hinds for unselfishly dedicating her life to helping others. It is the leadership and care exhibited by Nancy Lee Hinds that warrants this recognition. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Nancy Lee Hinds many more years of success.

CONGRATULATING COURTNEY H. MANK ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE U.S. AIR FORCE

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 1998

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Colonel Courtney H. Mank on his July retirement from the United States Air Force. I hope Members will join with me today to thank Colonel Mank for his contributions to the U.S. Air Force, his community and the country. A graduate of Killeen High School in Killeen, Texas in 1964, Colonel Mank earned a bachelor's degree in education from Southwest Texas State University in 1968. In 1977, he completed his master's degree in personnel management from Webster College.

He received a commission as a second lieutenant through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps in 1968, and was assigned as chief of security police at Laughlin AFB, Texas.

In June 1970, Colonel Mank was transferred to Cam Ranh Bay, Republic of Vietnam, where he served as base defense officer. He returned to the United States in June 1971, and was assigned as commander of the 58th Security Police Squadron, Luke AFB, Arizona.

Colonel Mank's selection as an Air Staff Training Officer in June 1972 resulted in an assignment to Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Office of the Inspector General for Security Police, Washington, D.C. The following year, he was assigned to Langley AFB, Virginia, inspection team. In March 1975, Colonel Mank was assigned to the Air Force Military Personnel Center, Randolph AFB, Texas, as a career management staff officer and executive officer.

In February 1979, Colonel Mank was assigned to the Alaskan Air Command Security Police Staff, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska, as chief of the operations branch. While at Elmendorf, the colonel assumed command of the 21st SPS in March 1980. Colonel Mank was then assigned as chief of security police, Headquarters, Air Defense, Tactical, Langley AFB, Virginia, in February 1982. In July 1984, he was transferred to Holloman AFB, New Mexico, assuming command of the 833rd SPS. After transferring to Ramstein Air Base, Germany, in August 1986, Colonel Mank became chief of the physical security division, deputy chief of staff, security police, Headquarters U.S. Air Forces in Europe.

He later transferred to Headquarters Electronic Security Command, Kelly AFB, Texas, as the chief of security police.

In July 1991, the colonel became commander of the 857th Security Police Group, Minot AFB, North Dakota. Colonel Mank assumed his current position on June 1, 1993.

The colonel's military decorations and awards include the Legion of Merit; Bronze

Star Medal; Meritorious Service Medal with seven oak leaf clusters; Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster; Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with "V" device and one oak leaf cluster; National Defense Service Medal; Vietnam Service Medal with two service stars; Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with palm device; and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

The singularly distinctive accomplishments of Colonel Mank culminate a long and distinguished career in the service of his country and reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

I ask members to join me in wishing Colonel Mank the very best as he returns to Killeen, Texas upon his retirement.

INTRODUCTION OF THE WOMEN'S HIGHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 1998

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 1998

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing today the Women's Higher Education Opportunity Act of 1998. I am particularly pleased that nine of my colleagues have joined me as original cosponsors of this bill. They include: Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, Mrs. LOWEY, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mrs. MINK of Hawaii, Mrs. MORELLA, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SANCHEZ, Ms. WOOLSEY, and Mr. SCHUMER.

This is a very important piece of legislation, and I am very hopeful that many of its provisions will be incorporated in the legislation reauthorizing the Higher Education Act.

As the ranking minority member on the Postsecondary Education Subcommittee, I intend to do more than simply voice support for the provisions of this bill. I will do whatever I can to see many of its provisions find their way into the reauthorization bill upon which we are now working.

With respect to the bill's student aid provisions, I believe it is critically important that part-time students continue to be eligible for both Pell Grant and campus-based student aid. Many of the part-time students in college today are women who work, raise a family and attend college on a part-time basis. It is important, therefore, that if eligible, they can obtain federal student aid. They should not be disqualified simply because they are not full-time students.

If they have children who need to be cared for while they are in school, it is equally important that they receive satisfactory dependent care allowance. We would propose, therefore, that the allowance of \$750 in current law be doubled, to \$1500.

In current law, we also have a requirement that at least 5% of the campus-based aid go to part-time students where they make up at least 5% of the institution's student enrollment. We are well above this requirement in the SEOG, College Work Study and Perkins Loan programs. While a specific statutory percentage requirement may no longer be necessary, we must nevertheless remain vigilant in making sure that these campus-based aid programs continue to aid the part-time student in a fair and equitable manner.

It is also clear that we should go beyond the necessary student aid changes and establish

a discretionary grant program that would provide more extensive on-campus child care services. This would help low-income parents more readily pursue a college education by providing child care services on the campus of the college they are attending.

Last year we celebrated the 25th anniversary of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. This is the law that has done so much to expand college athletic opportunities for American girls and women. It is imperative that we reaffirm our commitment in this area, and that we not retreat from what we have worked so hard to accomplish.

As we develop a teacher training piece in the Higher Education reauthorization, I want to reiterate my commitment to a provision that is especially important to women, and one which is not covered in this particular bill. This involves the need to include in any Higher Education reauthorization bill provisions that will enhance the training of both paraprofessionals and non-certified teachers to become fully certified members of the teaching profession.

We must continue our effort to insure that groups traditionally underrepresented in graduate education, namely women and minorities, have a prominent focus in the reauthorization of these provisions of the Higher Education Act. If the reauthorization bill fails to include such a provision then we must seek passage of an amendment to accomplish that important objective.

And last, but by no means least, we must not only continue but intensify efforts to make sure that the campus is a safe heaven for learning. This means a stronger program to combat violence on the college campus and a better, more effective reporting of campus crimes, especially those involving sexual assault.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues and I have worked closely with the American Association of University Women in formulating this bill. I want to congratulate the Association for its strong commitment in furthering educational opportunity for women, and congratulate the Association staff for the superb work they have done in putting this initiative together. We now face the hard, but enjoyable work of doing whatever we can to incorporate these provisions in the legislation reauthorizing the Higher Education Act.

A TRIBUTE TO STEVE DAHL ON HIS 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF SERVICE FOR LISTENING AUDIENCES OF CHICAGO

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 1998

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute to an outstanding entertainer who has amused and enlightened radio listeners throughout the Chicago community for 20 years, Mr. Steve Dahl.

Mr. Dahl, who recently celebrated 20 years in Chicago broadcasting on February 23, 1998, is a true innovator in modern radio. His rapier wit and tell-it-like-it-is style have kept his listeners glued to their radios for the past two decades. Even though Steve Dahl has changed radio stations throughout the years, one thing has remained constant for Mr. Dahl,

his love and respect for the power of radio as both a medium and art form, and his respect for his listeners.

Mr. Dahl is truly a great American success story. As native of California, he tirelessly honed his craft at stations throughout his home state. When he came to Chicago in 1978 at age 23, Steve Dahl was already a seasoned pro and immediately drew large audiences with his outsider's perspective and boundless humor and energy. Throughout his 20 years in Chicago, Mr. Dahl has shown that a radio personality can be creative and funny, while remaining the consummate professional.

Part of the attraction his listeners have with Mr. Dahl has been his relationship with his family. Unlike many broadcast personalities who manufacture a professional on-air persona from their real lives, Mr. Dahl has woven ups and downs of marriage and raising a family into most of his shows in a way in which any family can relate. It is not unusual for the Mr. Dahl's wife, Janet and three sons, Patrick, Matthew, and Michael to have discussions, debates and even the occasional argument over the airways.

Mr. Dahl not only takes his profession seriously, but his obligation to his community as well. He has donated his talents and countless hours of his time to worthy causes throughout the Chicago area, especially in his suburban hometown where Janet Dahl serves as a member of the Board of Education.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Mr. Dahl on his 20th Anniversary of entertaining Chicago. I would like to extend my very best wishes for continued success in the years to come.

THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION, MORRISTOWN, NEW JERSEY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 1998

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Roman Catholic Church of the Assumption in Morristown, New Jersey.

The Assumption Church, the oldest standing church in Morristown, has served as a gathering place for spiritual worship since 1848, when the first Mass was held there on Christmas Day. Founded several months earlier that year by Father Bernard McQuaid, who became the church's first Pastor, it was given the name, "Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary," and became the first Catholic church established in Morristown. At the time of its dedication by Bishop Hughes in March, 1849, the parishioners at the new church numbered only 120 in total. In contrast, approximately 1800 families belong to the parish today.

Continuing the tradition of social outreach begun by Father McQuaid, who, in 1850, started a school in the basement of the church, the Church of the Assumption today participates in close to forty social ministries along with other churches in Morristown. These range from meals and housing for the needy to programs for the spiritual enrichment of young adults, and include its newest ministry, a weekly Sunday Mass for the Deaf.

In addition to the positive community impact which comes directly from the good works of the Assumption Church, the church has also been instrumental in establishing other houses of worship, hospitals and schools in Morris County. Through the founding of St. Virgil's Church in Morris Plains, St. Joseph's Church in Mendham, Bayley Ellard High School and All Souls Hospital (now the Mt. Kemble Division of Morristown Memorial Hospital), Assumption Church has greatly expanded the spiritual and social opportunities available to residents of Morris County.

The Church of the Assumption is led today by its Pastor, Rev. Msgr. Martin F. Rauscher. Additional clergy at the church includes the Associate Pastor, Father William Winston and nine priests and deacons. As these individuals, with the assistance of the church's parish, lay the foundation for continued success into the next century, I want to ask you, Mr. Speaker, and my colleagues to join me in commemorating the Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary on its sesquicentennial anniversary.

INTRODUCTION OF THE LAND PRESERVATION TAX FAIRNESS ACT

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 1998

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I have introduced the Land Preservation Tax Fairness Act. This legislation will cut taxes on income earned when an individual sells his or her land or development rights to a nonprofit organization with the purpose of preserving this land.

This bill will make it more economically viable for a person to sell his or her land to an organization to keep it undeveloped rather than sell the property to someone who may develop it. I do not think all development is bad. However, I think we should reward people who are willing to pass up large sums of money so that their property can be preserved.

Currently, individuals must pay taxes on any income they may receive when they sell their property or development rights to the government or nonprofit organization which will keep the land undeveloped. I think the legislation I have introduced will encourage more people to do this by reducing the amount of taxes they must pay on any income realized from such a sale.

Reducing the pressure to build on currently undeveloped property, particularly in areas that are in close proximity to either a national park or metropolitan area, is especially important. My bill will combat the negative effects on urban sprawl and protect the natural areas around our national treasures.

Under current law, sellers can only deduct a small proportion of their original investment from any gain that they may make on this type of sale. However, this bill will allow individuals to deduct the entire amount of their original investment from any gain they may realize which will result in more people making an effort to preserve undeveloped land.

Without this type of tax relief, only the wealthy farmers and landowners will be able to afford not to sell their property to devel-

opers. The Land Preservation Tax Fairness Act will provide this opportunity to a larger number of people and help preserve more farmland and natural areas for future generations.

I hope my Colleagues will join me in supporting this legislation so that we can help protect the environment and reduce the tax burden on the American public.

THE STOP KIDS FROM SMOKING ACT

HON. STEVE R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 1998

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Stop Kids From Smoking Act", a bill that will go a long way to achieving the important goal of ending youth smoking. This bill would make it illegal for any establishment that allows children under the age of eighteen to have a vending machine. The premise for this bill is simple: if children are unable to buy tobacco, it makes it significantly harder for them to start smoking.

We have effective laws that require individuals to show proof that they are eighteen in order to buy tobacco products. However, each year minors illegally purchase 256 million packs of cigarettes. How is this possible? It is easy. Kids go to the one place where they do not get carded—vending machines. They go to the diners, hotels, restaurants, and other places that generally have a vending machine in a hall or entranceway, put their money in the machine and get tobacco. Rarely are they even seen, and less often are they questioned.

I realize that some states and towns across the country have already taken this a step further by banning tobacco vending machines entirely. My bill would not preempt these laws. Instead, it would simply ensure that no child under the age of eighteen be able to buy tobacco in any situation, even when they are not being watched and questioned.

Please join me and my bipartisan original cosponsors in protecting America's youth from the deadly habit of smoking. Let's stop illegal tobacco use by minors and save this next generation from premature death from tobacco-related disease.

A BILL To prohibit the use of vending machines to sell tobacco products in all locations other than in locations in which the presence of minors is not permitted.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Stop Kids From Smoking Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS

The Congress finds that—

- (1) almost 90 percent of adult smokers began at or before age 18;
- (2) 35 percent of high school kids currently smoke cigarettes;
- (3) each year minors illegally purchase 256,000,000 packs of cigarettes;
- (4) more than 5,000,000 kids alive today under the age of 18 will die prematurely from tobacco-related disease unless current sales are reversed; and
- (5) numerous studies and surveys show that significant percentages of young people are

able to purchase cigarettes from vending machines, even in jurisdictions that have laws restricting the placement of the machines or requiring the use of locking devices.

SEC. 3. ACCESS.

(a) VENDING MACHINES.—Vending machines may be used to sell tobacco products only in an area or establishment from which individuals under the minimum age prescribed by subsection (b) are denied access.

(b) MINIMUM AGE.—No manufacturer, distributor, or retailer of tobacco products may sell a tobacco product to an individual who is under the age of 18, except that if a State or municipality has established a higher age, no manufacturer, distributor, or retailer of tobacco products may sell tobacco products in that State or municipality to an individual who is less than such higher age.

(c) PREEMPTION.—This Act shall not preempt any State or municipal law which bans vending machines that sell tobacco products, nor will it preclude any State or locality from enacting such a stronger ban in the future.

SEC. 4. DEFINITION.

For purposes of this Act, the term "tobacco product" includes cigarettes, cigars, little cigars, pipe tobacco, and smokeless tobacco.

SEC. 5. PENALTY.

Any person who violates this Act is liable to the United States for a civil money penalty of \$1,000 for each violation.

EMPTY SHELVES: 1998 SURVEY OF U.S. FOOD BANKS

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 1998

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I commend to my colleagues' attention the following report on the tremendous challenges food banks across the United States are facing. Despite our booming economy, demand is rising at surprising rates in most communities.

Here in Congress, most of the talk about hunger has focused on welfare and the reform bill that we passed in 1996. But when you leave Washington, the focus shifts to the food banks. That's where hungry people turn when they've run out of options, and it's where the millions of Americans who regularly donate to canned food drives send their support.

The food banks are in trouble. I am not here to rehash welfare reform, Mr. Speaker, and I was surprised that most food banks aren't interested in doing that either. As the food bank in Montgomery, Alabama put it, "We are doing our best to meet the need, and we think in the end we will help make welfare reform work." A lot of food banks expressed similar optimism, and I share their hope. I think all of us do.

Of all the ways we can make welfare reform work, food is the least expensive one. Job training, transportation to get to a job, child care, health care—these are all pricey investments. Food is an investment too—although some people talk as if food is like a carrot you dangle in front of a mule to make it go where you want it to go. That might work with animals, but it simply doesn't work with people.

Hungry makes people tired. It saps their spirit and drive. It robs them of the concentration they need to learn job skills. It forces them to focus on where their next few meals

are coming from—instead of on finding a job, or holding one. And it makes them prone to get sick, from every flu bug that comes around, and up to some very serious diseases.

When Congress enacted welfare reform, we increased federal support for food banks by \$100 million—but the money inserted into the gap between need and supply is falling far short. We originally took away \$23 billion from food stamp recipients. But we gave just \$100 million to food banks. With that, they are struggling to provide just a few days worth of emergency food to the people who've lost their food stamps, or whose food stamps don't last the entire month. It's just not enough.

It made common sense to increase our support for food banks significantly, and we did just that. With evidence mounting that this still falls impossibly short of what is needed—and that many food banks simply cannot make it without more support—it makes common sense to revisit the decision on the appropriate amount of additional support.

This survey of food banks adds to the evidence of booming demands on food banks. It is not designed to be statistical analysis. But it does provide perspective from around the country—a window on what is happening in communities of every size.

What I found most striking overall is that, of the food banks that estimated the increase in demand for food, 70% reported demand grew much faster than 16%. That is the rate reported in a December 1997 survey by the U.S. Conference of Mayors that shocked me, and many other Americans. And yet so many food banks are reporting even higher rates. I think it underscores the fact that poverty reaches beyond our cities. It scars rural communities and suburban ones too—a fact that many people overlook when they conjure in their minds the image of a welfare mom, or a food stamp recipient, or someone in line at the local food pantry.

Beyond that, the story of hunger in America that the food banks are documenting is an individual one. It increasingly features working people, whose low-wage jobs don't pay enough to put food on the table. Often, it includes people for whom hunger is a symptom of deeper problems—of illiteracy, a lack of education, a history of substance or domestic abuse. But equally often it includes people who are trying to climb out of their problems, trying to improve their prospects and willing to participate in initiatives aimed at giving them the tools they need. And, when the story includes a food bank, it always features people doing the Lord's work—and in increasingly creative ways. The survey describes some of those approaches, and I think many of them deserve attention and praise.

The food banks, and the hungry people who are doing their best to escape poverty, cannot do it alone. We need a range of initiatives to fill the gaps, and I will be using this survey to support my work on at least three ideas:

First, and most immediately, the food banks need more money. I am working on a bill now, but the fact is that even millions of dollars would be a small investment in making sure that welfare reform succeeds. I'm also looking into including the President's request for \$20 million to support gleaning initiatives, because food banks rely heavily on gleaned food.

Second, we need to end the tax law's discrimination against charitable donations from

farmers and businesses who want to donate food. Current law says the value of food is nothing more than the cost of its ingredients—which already are deducted as a cost of doing business.

That means it makes no difference to the green eyeshades in "Accounting" whether the food is donated or dumped. In fact, it costs a few pennies more to donate the food (in transportation or labor costs). The same is true for farmers: why not plow under unsold crops, if it costs you time or money to donate them instead? Many businesses and farmers donate food anyway—but many more probably would if we treat food as a charitable donation, in the same way that old clothes and other donated goods are treated.

Late last year, I introduced the Good Samaritan Tax Act, H.R. 2450, and I urge my colleagues to support that. I also am looking into ways we can remove obstacles to trucking companies and others who can help get food to hungry people.

Third, we must increase the minimum wage. As the Latham, New York food bank put it, "The fastest growing group of people being served by food pantries is the working poor. That is a disgrace. Minimum wage should lift people out of poverty."

There are other good anti-hunger initiatives as well, but if we are serious about answering the clear call of food banks in trouble, these three ought to be at the top of the agenda.

Food banks have been doing the hard work on the front lines of fighting hunger for decades. They are supported by their communities, and they are the organizations that increasing numbers of citizens turn to. In my own state of Ohio, *one in nine* people seek emergency food assistance every month, according to a September 1997 report by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

When I visited my local food bank in Dayton recently, I was amazed to find it was the same place I had come often in the past. Then, the shelves were brimming with food—and good food too. Lately, the shelves have been empty, and when I visited it seemed they contained more marshmallows than nutritious staple foods. I was able to convince Kroger to make a generous donation to help Dayton's food bank. I urge my colleagues to see for themselves what is happening in their own communities, and to lend a hand in whatever way you can to answer this growing need.

Increasing numbers of people are so hungry they're willing to stand in line for food, Mr. Speaker. I cannot rest knowing that, too often, there is no food at the end of that line. And I urge my colleagues to take a few minutes to review this report, and to see the situation for themselves.

EMPTY SHELVES: 1998 SURVEY OF U.S. FOOD
BANKS

A Report by Hon. Tony P. Hall, Member of
Congress, February 25, 1998

BACKGROUND

In January, 1998 I surveyed more than 200 food banks to learn their experience in meeting the needs of the people, and the charities that serve them, who turn to food banks. Fifty-five responded in detail.

The questionnaire was designed to accomplish two goals. First, it would provide information that could be used to gauge the depth of a phenomenon documented in the U.S. Conference of Mayors' December 1997 report, which found 16 percent more people were turning to food banks for assistance in 1997

than just a year earlier. Second, it would yield a response—including a weekly grocery list—that could be sent to Members of Congress or corporations who may be able to provide publicity or other help in meeting their local food bank's practical needs.

The questionnaire posed these questions: (1) Is the demand for your services greater than you are able to meet? If so, please characterize the extent of unmet need. (2) Is the demand for your services increasing? If so, can you estimate how much it has grown in the past year? (3) What additional resources—food or money—do you need to answer the immediate needs of the people you serve? (4) What solutions to the problems of hunger and poverty are most promising in your experience?

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The overwhelming majority of those who responded indicated that food banks are having increasing difficulty keeping enough food on their shelves to feed those in need. Seven of every 10 food banks that estimated how much demand was up responded that it was rising even faster than the 16 percent increase documented by the Mayors. This does not challenge their findings; it simply underscores the fact—often overlooked—that poverty reaches beyond the inner city to scar much of rural and suburban America as well.

Food banks also emphasized that many of their clients are working, but cannot afford to put food on the table at the low wages they are earning. Living-wage jobs were the favorite suggestion of those who made policy recommendations, but with the qualification that low-paying jobs only prolong the problem.

The responses endorsed the goals of welfare reform, although many questioned the route chosen to reach those goals. And many of the food banks responding described creative and promising approaches to some problems their clients encountered regularly. Among these are programs designed to help clients manage their money better, address their child care needs, and take other steps toward self-sufficiency.

Finding: Demand at Food Banks is Booming

Estimating the increase in need for emergency food is a challenge, food banks report. It is the rare organization that can confidently say it is meeting its community's needs. It is an overwhelmingly common view that more food can always be used.

Most of the food banks limit the help they extend, often providing enough food for only two to five days each month. As food banks across Arizona found, "pantries are reporting that residents in need are regularly exhausting the number of times they can receive emergency food boxes." The question becomes, is demand up—or are we just realizing there are more hungry people than we knew?

The increased need is clear, however, in the new faces turning up in lines for food, many say. For example:

In Camden, New Jersey, one-third of the 215 non-profits the food bank serves are reporting a 50 percent increase in first-time requests. The rest say demand is up between 30 and 40 percent.

In Waynesburg, Pennsylvania, one in ten clients are first-timers. That food bank has seen no increase, but believes that welfare reform has not yet hit the region.

Beyond this indicator, the sheer numbers of people turning to food banks for help is strong evidence that, in the words of an Evansville, Indiana food bank, "we can't begin to meet this need," or as a food bank in Wilmington, North Carolina put it, "I feel we are only scratching the surface. We will never be able to solve hunger, but maybe we can make an effort at managing it."

In Everett, Washington, demand has almost tripled in the past year for its three-day food boxes, available to clients just once a month. In Abilene, Texas, the food bank is keeping up with demand, but only by "feeding twice the number of people we fed last year."

In Kansas City, Missouri, charities served by the food bank are reporting increased demand from 60 percent to 138 percent. One in five of these agencies had to cut down on the amount given to each client; one in ten had to turn people away.

Demand is up 60 percent in both Lame Deer, Montana and Elizabeth City, North Carolina. And in Asheville, North Carolina, demand was 52 percent higher in the last half of 1997 than in the first half.

Crookston, Minnesota's 1997 flood turned out to be a blessing because it brought out the generosity of Americans, as natural disasters so often do. "Partly as a result of the flood we have enough food and funds at this time," Crookston reports. Still, they distributed 50 percent more food in 1997—not counting the disaster relief—and usually run short of meat for their clients.

In Ladson, South Carolina, the food bank estimates it is meeting only half of the need for food, yet demand still grew 45 percent over the past year. Fredericksburg, Virginia's food bank reports a similar situation. "We could distribute three times the food we now do," it says; actual demand is up 42 percent.

In Atlanta, Georgia and Tyler, Texas, demand is up 30 percent over a year ago. In Cumberland, Maryland it is up 37 percent. In Phillipsburg, New Jersey, with demand up 30 percent, "we are just able to keep our heads above water," the food bank reports.

Food banks reporting increases of one-fourth to one-fifth over last year include those in Montgomery, Alabama; Phoenix, Arizona; Evansville, Indiana; Lewiston, Maine; Boston, Massachusetts; Hancock, Michigan; Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; and Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

In Oregon, demand is up 18 percent statewide. Across Ohio, food banks report increases of 10 percent. This is still considerable, considering that one in eight Ohioans seeks emergency food assistance every month, according to a September 1997 study by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

There were smaller increases reported, too, of: 17 percent in Bloomington, Indiana; 17 percent in Des Moines, Iowa; 15 percent in Norfolk, Nebraska; 13 percent in St. Louis, Missouri; 10 percent in Grand Rapids, Michigan; 8-9 percent in Orange, California; 4 percent in Howell, Michigan; 4 percent in Tillamook, Oregon (but which saw demand rise 27 percent the prior year); and 9 percent in Silverdale, Washington.

And the food banks are not alone. The charities that many of them depend upon report increasing numbers of people are turning to them for food.

The food bank serving Elizabeth City, North Carolina, has seen 15 charities that long have been in existence turn to the food bank after welfare reform. Among all of the agencies it serves, one in three is "stretching" food to try to help more people; one in four is unable to keep up with the demand no matter what it tries, it found in its own survey.

In Cumberland, Maryland, 50 charities have signed up for help from the food bank, bringing a one-third jump in the number of organizations that rely upon the food bank.

In Mobile, Alabama, demand is up 35 percent. Half of that is due to serving more individuals. There are more charities operating food pantries in Fort Smith, Arkansas as well. And across Arizona, there are nearly 15 percent more charities being served by food banks.

In Norfolk, Nebraska, several large agencies have closed their doors because they lacked money or manpower, compounding the 15 percent increase in overall demand.

In Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, many charities cannot even afford the subsidized prices of products the food bank offers.

Nor is the demand for just an added boost—it is for much more intensive help.

In Lubbock, Texas, "increasing numbers of people turn to the food bank and our partner agencies as a first stop for emergency food assistance—rather than a resource for stretching food budgets."

Charities in Albany, Georgia also "are being called on more and more to help those in need."

Finding: Food Banks Need More Resources

Food banks across the nation are coping with this challenge by "stretching" food—putting less into packages for clients, or buying beans and other cheap foods. In Latham, New York, for example, the number of clients has increased by 25 percent at some charities, but just 10 percent more food is being distributed. That strategy runs into two obstacles, however.

First, and obviously, food can only be "stretched" so far. Dayton, Ohio's food bank echoes what many others say: "We are no longer able to provide the variety of food that we used to." This problem goes beyond the depressing prospect of eating lousy food day in and day out: without proteins and fresh produce, malnutrition quickly sets in, with all of the health problems that accompany it. Children and the elderly are at special risk.

Second, in the words of Mobile, Alabama's food bank, "even those in need are affected by national trends. Many of these people need food products that require minimum preparation." For people trying to hold down one or more jobs, this is particularly important. And many foods that offer quick preparation do not lend themselves to being "stretched."

Some food banks try to counter the widespread lack of knowledge about how to spend food dollars wisely with classes on nutrition and managing money. Some go beyond that to provide the skills needed to overcome problems that often are at the root of hunger—including classes on job readiness, overcoming drug, alcohol and domestic abuse, child care and parenting, first aid and home security.

The grocery lists the survey requested food banks to complete were particularly instructive. It seems that food banks can use almost anything, and the only item in sufficient supply in many communities is day-old bread. Most urgently needed are staple foods, with meat particularly hard to come by. In Boulder, Colorado, "we almost never have beef, pork, ham or hamburger," the food bank reported. It was a comment echoed often by other food banks.

Personal care items, diapers, soaps and detergents, and paper products—all not covered by food stamps—were another frequent requests. Produce, both fresh and frozen, and all kinds of canned goods are also needed. "Ensure" and other supplements, as well as infant formula, also were requested.

In Lame Deer, Montana, the shelves are bare by the last week of each month, with cereals and soups the first to disappear.

In Waynesburg, Pennsylvania, "fresh products are non-existent" throughout each month.

In Lubbock, Texas, staples are expected to be in short supply by summer.

After all of the donations are in, money is still needed to make up for "the staples that aren't often donated," as the food banks in Fredericksburg, Virginia and other communities said. Money also would help meet the

growing need for freezers and refrigerators to store food, and vans to deliver it.

With money, food banks can buy more food than if they receive food donations directly, Abilene, Texas' food bank explained in a comment repeated often. They also can pay the overhead expenses essential to continuing to supply food. "Most of all we need more money," the food bank in Los Angeles said. "No matter how frugal we are, our operating costs rise."

Food banks also need more volunteers, many said. Finally, most would be lost without commodities provided through federal programs—but most could use a lot more commodities than they are getting.

Food Banks' Wish List

In addition to their tangible needs, several food banks described a real need for more public awareness of what the people they serve face—and what food banks are doing to respond. "Acceptance of the fact that there are poverty and hunger in the United States would be a good start," the Waynesburg, Pennsylvania food bank said.

The Des Moines, Iowa food bank recommends "a national initiative to raise the awareness of all Americans of the lifelong damage hunger and poverty can do." Des Moines and others also advocated giving "profit-making food industry companies . . . an incentive to donate."

Finally, a broader appreciation of their clients' needs would also help food banks do their jobs, some said. "While our primary goal is to feed the hungry, food does very little good if there is no power to cook it," the Silverdale, Washington food bank said, suggesting contributions to electric bills.

STRATEGIES FOOD BANKS USE TO COPE

Access to Low-Cost Food

Food banks are using a variety of ways to meet the challenge of increased demand—and one of the most promising is a push to harness their access to low-cost food.

For example, the food bank in Mobile, Alabama said, it can provide \$350 worth of food each month to families at a cost of \$25. If they did that during a transition period, a family could use the money saved on food to pay for transportation, child care, and other costs of starting a new job. "The bottom line is that when a comparison is made between additional monthly costs of going from welfare to work, and feeding a typical welfare-to-work family, these are approximately equal," the food bank has found.

A Grand Rapids, Michigan food bank has refined the idea further into its "Waste Not Want Not" initiative. That helps clients in need save their cash for other necessities. It encourages the donation of funds, which are tax-deductible, rather than of food; the result is 25 percent more resources. It lets clients choose their own food, significantly cutting down on the amount of food wasted. And it stays flexible enough to get the food it needs from food banks, rather than from grocery stores. The approach is promising, and the food bank estimates its operating costs have fallen to just over half of food banks' national average.

Fresno, California's food bank also sees a serious need for low-cost food available at retail for needy people. It serves 25-30 percent of its community's needs. Atlanta, Georgia's food bank also recommends co-operatives where low-income people can shop, and Cincinnati, Ohio's food bank recommends more farmers markets. Even food banks are having a difficult time getting low-cost food, according to Orange, Califor-

nia's food bank. "Food availability is down all over the country. This means we have to purchase more product."

"Do-It-Yourself"

Many food banks are getting involved in producing food—not just handling it. "We are grouping, gleaning, and/or processing an increasing amount of vegetables and fruits," said the food bank in Lubbock, Texas. "Not only does this assure fresh food, but it is providing job-training opportunities for many economically disadvantaged persons in our region."

An organization in Lansing, Michigan was established to do just that, and it has matched apples, potatoes and other produce from the state's farms with donations of sugar and other ingredients, cold storage, trucking, and food processing to send truckloads of food to the communities that need it.

SUGGESTED SOLUTIONS

Jobs

A considerable majority of food banks support efforts to get people off welfare and back to work. "Jobs, jobs, jobs!" a food bank in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania advised. "When people have good, reasonably paying jobs then there is no hunger, nor the need for our services."

Another food bank in Bloomington, Indiana has found that employing needy people in its operation has far-reaching effects. "Helping someone else is always helpful for yourself," its operation has proved.

Oregon food banks suggested letting people get some cash assistance if they work part-time, and enacting state Earned Income Tax Credits—both initiatives to encourage work.

Increase the Minimum Wage

But many also cautioned that low-wage jobs are not enough to end their clients' dependence on emergency food. "The fastest growing group of people being served by food pantries is the working poor," the food bank in Latham, New York complained. "That is a disgrace. Minimum wage should lift people out of poverty."

"Service sector positions at the minimum wage only continue the crisis," a Boston, Massachusetts food bank has found. "Make it more profitable to work and get ahead," said one in Norfolk, Nebraska. "Full-time work should equal at least enough for necessities," the Crookston, Minnesota food bank wrote.

Skills Training

A common companion to hunger is the lack not only of appropriate job skills—but of a range of other capabilities as well. Among "Service sector positions at the minimum wage only continue the crisis," a Boston, Massachusetts food bank has found. The recommendations: mentoring, literacy training, money management, nutrition and meal-planning, and "practical living" skills. The food bank in St. Louis found that "programs that lead a family through the system, from the beginning to self-sufficiency" worked wonders.

Child Care

As welfare reform returns people to work, food banks and others are finding that their lack of access to child care is a severe obstacle. "Affordable and reliable child care is . . . one of our most pressing needs," the food bank in Silverdale, Washington said. "There are many single moms that not only could, but are eager to, get off welfare roles if they could just find a safe, nurturing place

to bring the kids—and one that mom could afford." That observation was echoed repeatedly, along with a recommendation for more child-feeding programs

LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS

"We're helping people exist, but can't do much to solve the problems that are keeping them hungry," the food bank in Elizabeth City, North Carolina reported.

"Somehow we have to get to the roots of hunger and poverty and turn people around in their formative years. . . . Help them to help themselves," the food bank in Orange County said. There there may always be a need for "just a little help with financial emergencies," Howell, Michigan's food bank said, but there are many ways to help people overcome their own trouble holding jobs.

POLITICAL ASSESSMENTS

The survey yielded several political assessments about where best to lay blame for the fact of hunger and poverty. "Undoing all of the liberal policies that have mired millions of our citizens in entitlement dependency," was the recommendation from a Verona, Virginia food bank. "Cut food stamps so people will look for work," a food bank in Tillamook, Oregon suggested.

Far more blamed welfare reform. "My day of disillusionment came on Aug. 22, 1996 [when] political expediency made a bad bill become law. We've been struggling since that day and it appears for the hungry things will only get worse," said the Des Moines, Iowa food bank.

Another in Boston, Massachusetts called it "senseless to remove people's means of sustaining their existence without developing an alternative means for them to obtain the necessities for their families."

Another took no side in the debate over the role welfare reform has played in the current situation. "Our concern is not with the political pros and cons of welfare reform but how we can best make what has already been decided upon work," said Montgomery, Alabama's food bank.

And another pointed out the ironic route welfare has traveled. "There was a time in America's history that the WPA and the CCC built a lot of libraries and camp sites for a lot fewer tax dollars than are required now just to maintain the welfare infrastructure," the Silverdale, Washington food bank pointed out.

CONCLUSIONS

As states work to replace the federal welfare system with structures of their own, the number of people turning to food banks for emergency assistance is growing. New strategies are being tried, many with success, and they need to be encouraged.

To ensure Americans who turn to food banks for help do not go hungry, food banks need additional support.

They need the goodwill and charitable contributions of their community, and that participation of more of its individuals and business.

They need public and private initiatives that complement their efforts and address the root causes of hunger and poverty.

They need federal laws that ensure a living wage and encourage generosity.

And they cannot do without the support of federal funds and a federal commodity foods.

Ingenuity alone cannot make up for the dramatic cuts in our nation's nutrition safety net. Neither the private sector, nor most local communities, can fill the gap alone.